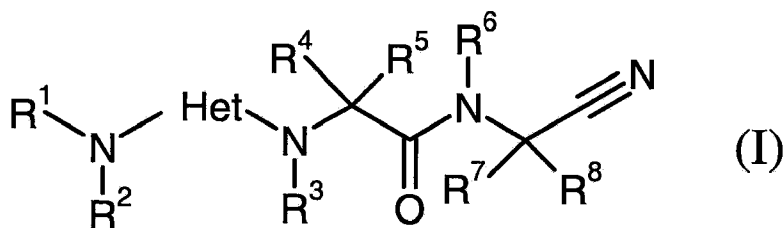


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (I):



R¹ is independently hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl or C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl;

R² is independently aryl, heteroaryl or a group C₁₋₆ alkylR⁹, CO(C₁₋₆ alkyl)R⁹ or SO₂(C₁₋₆alkyl)R⁹; where R⁹ is aryl or heteroaryl;

or R¹ and R² together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 4 to 7-membered saturated ring optionally containing a carbonyl group, O, S or N atom and optionally substituted by one or more C₁₋₆ alkyl, amino, hydroxy, CO₂C₁₋₆ alkyl, COC₁₋₆ alkyl, halogen, C₁₋₆ alkylhydroxy, NR¹⁰R¹¹ where R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are independently hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5- or 6-membered saturated ring optionally containing a further O, S or NR¹ group, C₁₋₆ alkylNR¹²R¹³ where R¹² and R¹³ are independently hydrogen or C₁₋₆ alkyl, CONR¹²R¹³, or optionally substituted by C₁₋₆ alkylR⁹, aryl, phenoxy, COaryl, COheteroaryl or a heteroaryl group, the latter six groups being optionally substituted by halogen, amino, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, carboxy, CONR¹²R¹³, SO₂NR¹²R¹³, SO₂R¹², trifluoromethyl, NHSO₂R¹², NHCOR¹², ethylenedioxy, methylenedioxy, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkyl NR¹⁰R¹¹, SR¹² or NR¹⁰R¹¹;

Het is a heteroaryl ring chosen from pyridine, pyrimidine, pyrazine, pyridazine or triazine and optionally substituted by halogen, amino, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, carboxy, CONR¹²R¹³, SO₂NR¹²R¹³, SO₂R¹², trifluoromethyl, NHSO₂R¹², NHCOR¹², C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, SR¹² or NR¹⁰R¹¹;

R^3 is independently hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkyl;

R^4 is independently hydrogen, C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, aryl C_{1-5} alkyl or heteroaryl C_{1-5} alkyl, the latter three groups being optionally substituted by one or more halogen, amino, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, SR^{12} or $NR^{10}R^{11}$;

R^5 is independently hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkyl;

R^6 is independently hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkyl;

R^7 is independently hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkyl; and

R^8 is independently hydrogen, aryl, heteroaryl or C_{1-6} alkyl optionally substituted with one or more aryl, heteroaryl, halogen, amino, hydroxy, carboxy, $CONR^{12}R^{13}$, $SO_2NR^{12}R^{13}$, SO_2R^{12} , $NHSO_2R^{12}$, $NHCOR^{12}$, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, SR^{12} or $NR^{10}R^{11}$;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 1 in which R^1 is hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl and R^2 is CH_2R^9 or $CH_2CH_2R^9$ where R^9 is phenyl or a 5- or 6-membered aromatic ring containing one or two heteroatoms and optionally substituted by C_{1-6} alkyl.

3. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 in which R^1 and R^2 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a piperidine, piperazine, pyrrolidine, morpholine, or thiomorpholine ring optionally substituted by CH_2OH , CH_2CH_2OH , hydroxy, $CONH_2$, phenyl, phenoxy, or $C(O)$ -furyl, the latter three groups being optionally substituted by halogen, in particular chloro.

4. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 in which R^3 is hydrogen.

5. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 in which R^4 is hydrogen.

6. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 in which R^5 is hydrogen or phenyl optionally substituted by C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{1-6} alkoxy.

7. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I) selected from:

N~1~- [Cyano(2-methoxyphenyl)methyl]-N~2~- (2-morpholin-4-ylpyrimidin-4-yl)-L-leucinamide,

N~1~- [Cyano(2-methoxyphenyl)methyl]-N~2~- (2-piperazin-1-ylpyrimidin-4-yl)-L-leucinamide,

N-[Cyano(2-methoxyphenyl)methyl]-N-(2-morpholin-4-ylpyrimidin-4-yl)-L-phenylalaninamide,

N~1~- [Cyano(2-methoxyphenyl)methyl]-3-cyclohexyl-N~2~- (2-morpholin-4-ylpyrimidin-4-yl)-L-alaninamide,

N-[2-(Benzylamino)pyrimidin-4-yl]-N-(cyanomethyl)-L-phenylalaninamide,

N-{2-[Benzyl(methyl)amino]pyrimidin-4-yl}-N-(cyanomethyl)-L-phenylalaninamide,

N-{2-[4-(4-Chlorophenyl)piperazin-1-yl]pyrimidin-4-yl}-N-(cyanomethyl)-L-phenylalaninamide,

N~2~- [2-(Benzylamino)pyrimidin-4-yl]-N~1~- (cyanomethyl)-3-cyclohexyl-L-alaninamide,

N~2~- {2-[Benzyl(methyl)amino]pyrimidin-4-yl}-N~1~- (cyanomethyl)-3-cyclohexyl-L-alaninamide,

N~2~- {2-[4-(4-Chlorophenyl)piperazin-1-yl]pyrimidin-4-yl}-N~1~- (cyanomethyl)-3-cyclohexyl-L-alaninamide,

N~1~- (Cyanomethyl)-N~2~- (4-morpholin-4-ylpyrimidin-2-yl)-L-leucinamide,

N~1~- (Cyanomethyl)-N~2~- (2-morpholin-4-ylpyrimidin-4-yl)-L-leucinamide,

N~1~- (Cyanomethyl)-N~2~- [2-(4-hydroxy-4-phenylpiperidin-1-yl)pyrimidin-4-yl]-L-leucinamide,

N~1~- (Cyanomethyl)-N~2~- {2-[methyl(pyridin-3-ylmethyl)amino]pyrimidin-4-yl}-L-leucinamide,

N~2~- {2-[Benzyl(methyl)amino]pyrimidin-4-yl}-N~1~- (cyanomethyl)-L-leucinamide,

N~2~- {2-[4-(4-Chlorophenyl)piperazin-1-yl]pyrimidin-4-yl}-N~1~- (cyanomethyl)-L-leucinamide,

N~2~- {2-[4-(5-Chloropyridin-2-yl)piperazin-1-yl]pyrimidin-4-yl}-N~1~- (cyanomethyl)-L-leucinamide,

N~1~-(Cyanomethyl)-N~2~-{2-[methyl(thien-3-ylmethyl)amino]pyrimidin-4-yl}-L-leucinamide,

N~1~-(Cyanomethyl)-N~2~-(2-thiomorpholin-4-ylpyrimidin-4-yl)-L-leucinamide,
N~1~-(Cyanomethyl)-N~2~-{2-(4-phenylpiperazin-1-yl)pyrimidin-4-yl}-L-leucinamide,
N~1~-(Cyanomethyl)-N~2~-{2-[2-(hydroxymethyl)piperidin-1-yl]pyrimidin-4-yl}-L-leucinamide,

N~1~-(Cyanomethyl)-N~2~-{2-[(2R)-2-(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidin-1-yl]pyrimidin-4-yl}-L-leucinamide,

N~1~-(Cyanomethyl)-N~2~-{2-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)pyrimidin-4-yl}-L-leucinamide,
N~1~-(Cyanomethyl)-N~2~-{2-[4-(2-furoyl)piperazin-1-yl]pyrimidin-4-yl}-L-leucinamide,

N~2~-{2-[3-(Aminocarbonyl)piperidin-1-yl]pyrimidin-4-yl}-N~1~-(cyanomethyl)-L-leucinamide,

N~1~-(Cyanomethyl)-N~2~-{2-[methyl(2-pyridin-2-ylethyl)amino]pyrimidin-4-yl}-L-leucinamide,

N~2~-{2-(4-Benzylpiperidin-1-yl)pyrimidin-4-yl}-N~1~-(cyanomethyl)-L-leucinamide,
N~1~-(Cyanomethyl)-N~2~-{2-(4-pyridin-2-ylpiperazin-1-yl)pyrimidin-4-yl}-L-leucinamide,

N~1~-(Cyanomethyl)-N~2~-{2-(4-phenylpiperidin-1-yl)pyrimidin-4-yl}-L-leucinamide,
N~1~-(Cyanomethyl)-N~2~-{2-[4-(2-hydroxyethyl)piperidin-1-yl]pyrimidin-4-yl}-L-leucinamide,

N~2~-{2-[4-(3-Chlorophenyl)piperazin-1-yl]pyrimidin-4-yl}-N~1~-(cyanomethyl)-L-leucinamide,

N~1~-(Cyanomethyl)-N~2~-{2-(4-phenoxy piperidin-1-yl)pyrimidin-4-yl}-L-leucinamide,
N~1~-(Cyanomethyl)-N~2~-{2-(3-phenylpyrrolidin-1-yl)pyrimidin-4-yl}-L-leucinamide,
N~1~-(Cyanomethyl)-N~2~-{2-{methyl[(3-methylisoxazol-5-yl)methyl]amino}pyrimidin-4-yl}-L-leucinamide,

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound as defined in claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Withdrawn) A method for treating pain, such as neuropathic pain, in a mammal, such as man, in need of such treatment, which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound according to claim 7 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Withdrawn) A method for treating pain, such as neuropathic pain, in a mammal, such as man, in need of such treatment, which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound according to claim 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 2 in which R^3 is hydrogen.

16. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 2 in which R^4 is hydrogen.

17. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 2 in which R^5 is hydrogen or phenyl optionally substituted by C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{1-6} alkoxy.

18. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 3 in which R^3 is hydrogen.
19. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 3 in which R^4 is hydrogen.
20. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 3 in which R^5 is hydrogen or phenyl optionally substituted by C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{1-6} alkoxy.